

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

War Gases

1. The demonstrations of the effects of war gases on rats and dogs were carried out in glass walled cages, the size of which depended upon the size of the animals in test. [redacted] They were brought into the demonstration laboratory in cylinders or sometimes, as was the case with hydrocyanic acid, in rubber balloons. The gases were admitted to the chambers and the effects were observed through the glass and recorded in reports.
2. Hydrocyanic acid killed the animals within a few seconds. Mustard gas and phosgene produced characteristic skin lesions, lung lesions, stomach poisoning, etc. Animals subjected to these gases were kept under observation for 24 or 48 hours. They were then killed and the organs affected were subject to post mortem examination.
3. Specific laboratory tests had been worked out for the identification of each potential war gas in air, food, clothing, drugs, etc. A part of the laboratory training consisted of carrying out these tests on contaminated samples. Each student taking the course had to identify the contaminants in several unknowns. He did this by going through identification tests in a prescribed order. [redacted] the tests on clothing involved placing a piece of cloth in a flask, distilling, and then determining the poison in the distillate.
4. Clothing was protected by impregnation with a secret agent which was never identified. [redacted] samples of articles of clothing [redacted] were so protected, including suits, hats, boots, gloves, underwear, etc. The articles of clothing so protected were made of the usual material such as wool, cotton, rubberized fabric, etc. An impregnated paper was shown which was to be used for the protection of food in case gas attacks were expected.

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5. [] shown very deep, ulcerated skin lesions on men [] These victims came into the classroom at the appointed time, spent perhaps five or ten minutes there, never spoke a word, and were then taken out after their injuries had been examined by the students. [] they might have been prisoners, or laborers in a poison gas factory, or even volunteers. [] This work was under the direction of Prof (fnu) Savitzky of the Military Academy of Leningrad (Imeni-Kirov). [] he was a colonel in the Army at that time. He had a big reputation in the USSR in the war gas field.

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Gas Masks

6. There were two types of canisters used with one type of gas mask in the USSR [] These differed only in the contents of the canister. The one for the civil population contained lime, charcoal, and perhaps other ingredients. The contents of the canister for military were entirely secret.
7. The gas mask consisted of a rubber piece which covered the entire face and perhaps about three-fourths of the scalp. It was connected to the canister by a large flexible rubber tube. The canister was about 18" x 15" x 4" and was fastened to the belt. The whole unit was heavy and clumsy. There were frequent reports that soldiers engaged in long training marches threw away the masks, but not the canvas carrying bags, because of their weight and awkwardness. The German masks [] were smaller, lighter and less uncomfortable.
8. The entire civil population, including school children and housewives was compelled to spend some hours in anti-CW training. This consisted of the rapid adjustment of the gas masks and then wearing the masks while going about their normal occupations. Gas masks for children in cribs were available and also masks for horses and dogs.
9. Surgeons were compelled to practice in the use of gas masks in performing operations, making rounds of the hospitals, writing reports, and examining patients. [] compelled to sleep in gas masks two or three times as a part of the training program.
10. All canisters were painted khaki color and [] there was no way to distinguish between them except by learning the point of issue. Those issued by the military were never available to the civil defense organizations.
11. We were compelled to spend some time in gas chambers with the regular military masks and with protective clothing. []

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Decontamination

12. Decontamination of skin exposed to poison gas was effected by soap and hot water. Afterwards a weak solution of iodine was sometimes painted on the exposed area. For field use, trucks with trailers were provided to furnish hot water showers for the troops. [] thousands of troops use these showers in training.
13. Special trucks on wheels were provided for the decontamination of clothing. Steam was used for removal of poison gases. If disinfection were also required, formaldehyde was used.
14. For the decontamination of rooms and utensils, a portable sprayer was used, strapped to the back of a soldier. For the decontamination of large ground areas, large sheet metal drums containing powdered lime or a

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